

HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

Libraries of Hope Newsletter

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TRUST THE PROCESS

MONTHLY TOPIC

--Happy April 1st?

Are you ready to dive into some new topics?

American history: We will take a look at another great man--Abraham Lincoln. There are so many interesting facets to his life and much that will interest even little children. His life is a testament to the power of reading! And of course we link him to slavery. While we need to teach our children that it happened and that it was horrible, we also need them to know that we abolished it! And this is definitely something worth celebrating. The stories of African-Americans who overcome their terrible ordeals are some of the most inspiring stories we have. We have much to thank them for their role in the establishment of our nation. And the story continues....

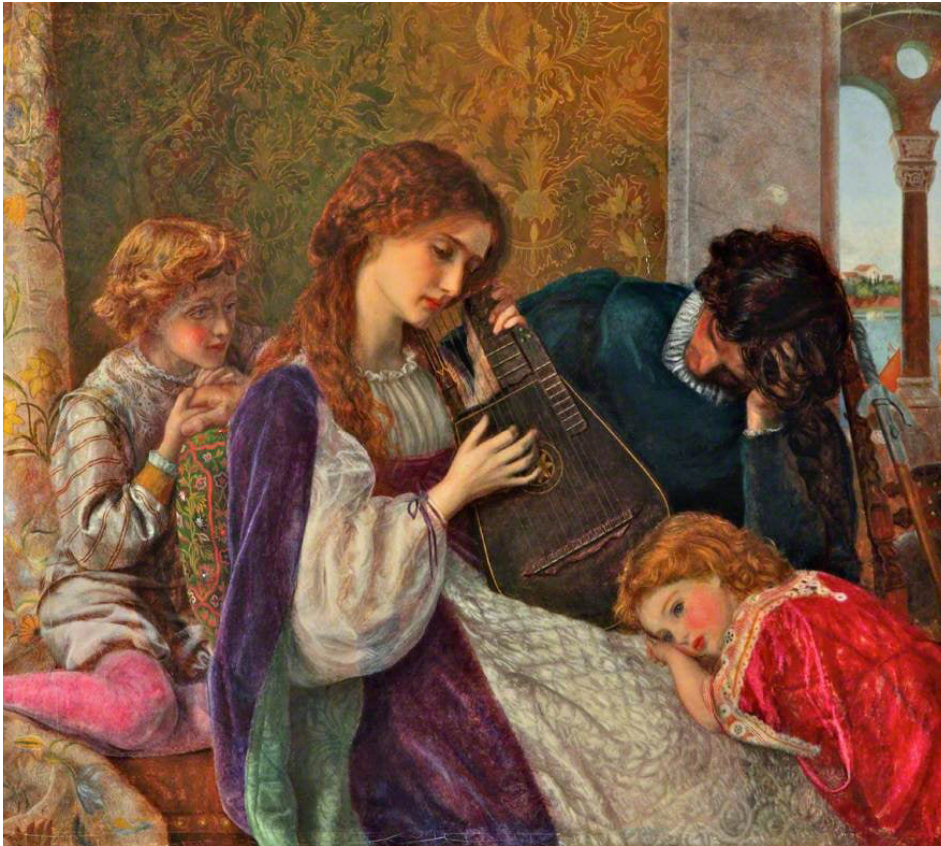
If you have littles, you may want to continue your stories of pioneer days and life on the frontier, such as the Little House series or other favorites you have found. You have lots of flexibility in the rotation.

World History: Our story of slavery leads us back to the continent of Africa, which, of course is made up of many nations and peoples. Many of the stories come only through the eyes of the missionaries and explorers who tell what they saw. We have to dig a little harder for these stories, but it is worth our effort. And our visit to Africa will lead us to Egypt and a study of the fascinating story of Ancient Egypt.

Nature: It’s a rare child who doesn’t love an animal of some sort or other. And animals is our topic for this month--a topic so big, you could spend the next several months if you wanted to. The Animal book in the Nature series gives them ideas for them to become detectives of sorts and discover why animals are designed the way they are.

(Monthly Topic cont.) Mother's University topic is History. The heart educators had much to offer in the way of how to study history so that it is meaningful and rich. Clue: it's opposite to how we typically approach it. I've tried to incorporate their recommendations in the way the rotation schedule is designed.

Have I missed anything? Happy Exploring!



“A FEW BARS OF MUSIC
IS WORTH MORE THAN A
BASKETFUL OF WORDS.”

--Humphrey Bogart in Casablanca

Art credit: A Music Party by Arthur Hughes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--We welcomed our 7000th member to our WEH facebook group this week and help a drawing to celebrate. The winner is: Kayla Nelson Eggleston. Congratulations! She will receive a framed picture of the painting at the top of the FB group.

To enter the drawing, I asked members to share one thing they have learned from WEH. I loved reading each and every response. It truly filled my soul with joy and I feel so blessed for my association with all of you.

Here is a small sampling of the hundreds of responses:

“Layers. I love that we layer and layer and circle back to everything to add more layers. So we -- and our children -- take what we need to when we need to, and continue to learn and grow.”

“I’ve learned how to fall in love with motherhood through WEH. And how to fall in love with life and God and all his creations.”

“I’ve learned how to see my children. I’ve learned that I have their heart and can influence them for the better. I’ve learned that I can make a better world by raising my children with love of learning. I’ve learned how to soften my heart.”

“‘The hand will not reach for what the heart does not long for.’ How important it is for the heart to be at the center of everything we do for our children.”

“Only 1!!!! I’m not sure I can limit it!! The biggest thing is that learning is life and life is learning. To just enjoy the journey!!”

(Announcements cont.) “That if I take time to touch my heart my children’s hearts will follow. If I want to see a change I can start with me first. I have done this with poetry, nature journal, journaling. It has been a wonderful journey for me and my children.”

“WEH has lit a fire in my woul that has given me a desire to learn, taught me how to learn, and why to learn... That all good things are naturally attached to a purpose to bring joy to ourselves and others.”

“I have learned how to have ‘eyes to see and ears to hear’ the beauty all around me, how to find joy in the quiet prosaic moments of my life, and how to share all this beauty and joy with my five littles.”

“One of the best things I have learned from WEH is the Vision and strength to let go of the illusion of control, stop planning everything out for my children, and let them have freedom and choice in their own learning. They are SO much more engaged in their own education since we have found WEH!! I can see such a huge difference between my younger kids who have had the benefit of WEH in our homeschool, and my older kids who didn’t. WEH has seriously been life changing!”

“Oh gosh, so many things! A big one is that I Love old art! And history! And I had no idea I liked either thing until I opened my heart to learning!”

“My kids are far more capable than I give them credit for. I don’t have to worry about me teaching them every-thing. By implementing a few small changes in our day, they’ve learned and grown so much over the past few months.”

“Trust the process.”

“I will name the thing that shocked me the most. It was that there was literature out there created specifically for children to learn to love history, and education. That it was meant to fill their hearts and not just remember facts.”

“That I wasn’t really burned out on homeschooling, I was focusing on the wrong aspect!”

“If you would have asked me a year ago if I could have ever done homeschool I would have laughed and said absolutely not. I have learned so much and now feel more confident in these new ways of warming my own heart and teaching my kids. It is so exciting!”

“I’ve learned that I needed to fill up my heart, not just my mind in order to help my children learn!”

“It is not our job to toughen
our children up to face a
cruel and heartless world.
It is our job to raise children
who will make the world a
little less cruel and heartless.”

--L.R. Knost

Art credit: Grandfather's Little Nurse by James
Hayllar



(Announcements cont.) “I am beginning my WEH journey. I am amazed at how it has reached into almost every aspect of my life. I feel my heart changing and peace surrounding my home. I needed this and I am so excited to continue to grow. It’s like learning truth I’ve always known.”

“I’ve learned to appreciate poetry. I never cared for it. In my mind, I equated poetry with...dissecting *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. But now I LOVE it! I’m amazed at how quickly a simple poem will soothe my soul and I’m constantly surprised by the depth and the message conveyed by so many many poems.”

“It’s helped me have more confidence in myself and confidence in receiving answers and guidance from The One who knows what my kids need better than I do. It’s helped me to look to Him first and more often and to others less. The softening of hearts brings greater connection with the Spirit and it’s been amazing to watch that process in my family.”

“That learning happens anywhere and everywhere. When the kids are excited and engaged it isn’t ‘learning’ it’s an ‘adventure.’”

“That God uniquely equipped me to teach my children and that is a gift.”

“I’ve learned to lay aside the things of this world and seek for the things of a better.”

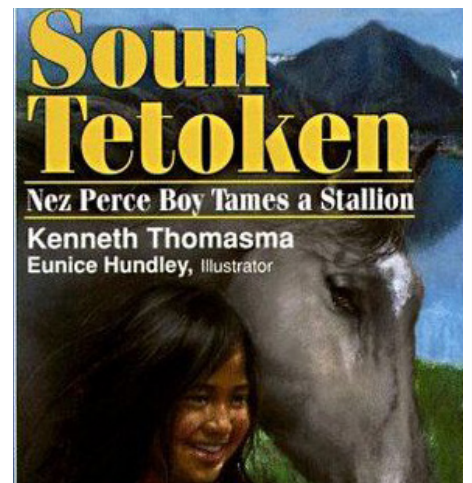
WEH GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

BIRDS:

[*The Little Book of Backyard Bird Songs*](#) by Andrea Pinnington and Caz Buckingham

NATIVE AMERICANS:

I was raised beside the Wind River Indian reservation as a child. We were often read the books by Kenneth Thomsma: *Soun Tetoken*, *Naya Nuki*, *Om-Kas-Toe*, *Kunu*, and *Pathki Nana*. I loved them all. We just finished reading *Soun Tetoken* and my boys loved it. I would highly recommend adding them and reading them with your children for an accurate portrayal of the life of Native American children from several different tribes. They are great living books!



GENERAL:

Q: I have a 12-year-old daughter who is very interested in current events. She wants to know about what is going on. We don’t currently subscribe to a newspaper. I’m wondering if any of you know of a website or email newsletter that covers current events and is designed for kids? Thank you!

A: We love CNN 10! Another more biblical focused program is The Worldview in 5 Minutes podcast. The same organization publishes daily news videos, too, but they are subscription. They are excellent! My daughter has access to them through her hybrid school.

A: I really like www.studentnewsdaily.com. I love that they teach how to evaluate news story for bias and to think through the issues themselves and discuss with their parents.

A: My kids and I read newsforkids.net every morning and they love it! Sometimes the articles are slanted, but we talk about any biases we find. Mostly, my kids (K-7th grades) enjoy learning about what’s going on in the world around us.

A: We watch www.worldwatchnews.com every day (M-F). It’s a news program for kids with a Christian world view. I’ve been really impressed with it and my kids love it.



“If literature is to regain its sway over the heart and its ministry in life, there must be a greater return to the oral and auditory basis of appeal... Because our culture is increasingly eye-minded, it is necessarily less emotionalized and less vital, less joyous and spontaneous.”

--Percival Chubb (1914)

Art credit: Exciting Story by Tihamer Margitay

WEH IN ACTION

--We just went to a neighborhood egg hunt. As my daughter was hunting and not finding, I started to feel this discomfort and felt the urge to tell her where some were. Sometimes I gave some vague clues and other times I pointed right to where to find it. She then was given the hint by another adult that there were more on the deck. She found one and then passed right by another and right when I was about to speak up to say, “Hey you missed one!” her step quickened and she lurched forward towards one she had found on her own.

Did it matter which egg she found? Not at all! Was it ok that she passed by one opportunity because she took advantage of another? The eggs all have treasures within. She didn't need to find the yellow egg when her eye caught the purple one. She's not missing out, she is just getting a different reward!

Also...isn't the whole point of the hunt so that you can...hunt? The anticipation of a hidden treasure, the thrill of the find? Can you imagine if our kids all showed up and had to walk around with an adult and only pick up the eggs that the adult pointed to??? Egg hunt traditions would die fast.

It was such a good reminder that we really need to take a deep breath and stop stealing away the anticipation and the thrill of learning by “pointing at it” to death. Let's be comfortable being uncomfortable and find joy in watching our kids discover. I love how Marlene is helping me figure out how to do that little by little. I am so grateful for The Well Educated Heart!!

--I gotta say that the printed version of the Catch the Vision course is a must! I'm working through it with a highlighter and being so inspired!! One thing that has stuck out to me was the concept of storing up beauty, goodness and truth in our children's hearts for when “winter” comes in their lives. And how our priorities each day should be on what builds the soul since we are “gardeners of souls.” I changed my perspective on what we should MAKE SURE we get done every day and am doing heart based things first. Because like Marlene mentioned, when hard times come, we aren't going to turn to our multiplication tables. Today we read scriptures, sang a hymn, and watched an episode of The Chosen. We recited our family memorization poem and we learned two new folk songs

(WEH in Action cont.) together! Then we read some poems from My Book of Delights and picked pictures from it to “notice, wonder and remind” us of things. We broke off into groups to read whatever My Little Cousins book everyone had chosen and came back together to share what we learned. We have a lot more on the agenda, including skill work like math, but I’m feeling so pleased and joyful that what we already have done together was the most important and most valuable use of our time.

Music isn’t my strong point and I didn’t really know where to turn to learn new songs, but I looked up folk songs in the search tab on the website for Libraries of Hope and found the music appreciation page. And that was a great start! I can’t wait to sing again tomorrow!! Loving the sea shanty we learned.

Educating the heart really does bring JOY! I’m totally on an high right now from all the heart food.

--I’m grateful for the WEH lifestyle and the resources available. We had such a fun morning learning about Egypt. I saw this idea for jewelry making in the enrichment area for Egypt on the WEH website. Under the Elementary section for Egypt there are a list of picture books. I went through and reserved a few at the library. Today we went to the park, then came home and read the Egyptian version of Cinderella from my Book House. The story was listed with the book # and page # on the book list section under Egypt. Sometimes I feel like I’ve made doing WEH so hard in my mind. But it’s really all there waiting for us to pick and choose what we want to do. Like Marlene says, it’s a Grand Buffet.

--An Anthropologist showed a game to the children of an African tribe...

He placed a basket of delicious fruits near a tree trunk and told them: The first child to reach the tree will get the basket.

When he gave them the start signal, he was surprised that they were walking together, holding hands until they reached the tree and shared the fruit!

When he asked them why you did that when every one of you could get the basket only for him!

They answered with astonishment: Ubuntu.

“That is, how can one of us be happy while the rest are miserable?”

Ubuntu in their civilization means: (I am because we are).

That tribe knows the secret of happiness that has been lost in all societies that transcend them and which consider themselves civilized societies !!

Art credit: Evening in a Bagirmi Village by E.M. Heims





Just a little funny for you all, courtesy of Kerrie Roberts.

MARLENE'S MUSINGS

I hope that as you read My America Story Book and other stories in the library, you'll find yourself wanting to know more. That's the intent! The Libraries of Hope library is designed to pique interest. I see it more as a gateway than a final destination.

If you haven't spent time in Internet Archive itself, I encourage you to orient yourself so you can make use of it. The books in LOH are linked to Internet Archive. When I want to know more about someone, that is my first go-to place. I simply enter in the name or topic and usually a number of books will come up. Some are very old and some are recent. When I find one that looks appealing--and I will open a lot of them before I find the one that I like--I click on it and when I go to the page, if I scroll down to the bottom of the page, it will suggest other titles similar to the one I am looking at. It's kind of a hit and miss, but I have found some awesome books that way.

Then if I really want to own the book, I go to ebay to see if there is an affordable copy on Amazon or Abe books. Those are my main used book sources. If I can't get a copy, I'll just print the book out, 3 hole punch it and put it in a notebook. (*NOTE: you can't print out the borrowed copies because they are still in copyright.)

I may do a Google search along the way and scan through the Wikipedia entry, but I find it has a much less 'inspiring' feel to it. Just the facts, ma'am. Or they draw conclusions through an entirely different lens than I am looking. So it's part of that weaving many threads of stories together to arrive at a complete picture.

It's all about exploring and discovering. Sometimes, it takes very little to satisfy my curiosity and other times I like to go deep.

Hope that helps.

MOI MINUTE

A friend in one of my MOI groups recently recommended *A Heart Like His* by Virginia Pearce. It was written specifically for a Latter-Day Saint audience, but I'm sharing it here because there are so many gems in it that parallel the Well-Educated Heart and MOI.

The basic premise of the book is this: as we become more aware of the condition of our hearts, we can use that awareness to crack them open even wider.

In the introduction Virginia writes, "This book is meant to help the reader explore and experiment with the simple concept of opening her heart. Simply making space for the Lord and others. Because this experiment is more about becoming than doing, it is simple, doesn't consume time, actually creates energy, and is, therefore, self-perpetuating."

I've been thinking a lot about what she means by "creates energy." We often hear women say that they leave a MOI meeting filled. I think this book really captures and articulates why so many of us feel that way. She wrote:

"I...identified a process that is repeatable; opening one's heart creates energy. Closing one's heart depletes energy."

"[A]n open heart looks outward, a closed heart looks inward."

"An open heart very often coaxes open someone else's closed heart. It's almost magical. An open heart presents a safe place that others sense, and they respond, sometimes immediately and sometimes much more slowly. No matter, however, whether they respond or not, because, in the meantime, we feel so much better living this way."

Every MOI group is a reflection of the mothers in it because MOI grows outward from our hearts together. We'd love to hear from you this week. What are some ways that your MOI group is feeding your heart and creating even more energy in your life? And to be fair, if your MOI group hasn't had this effect, what are some of your thoughts on how to improve your relationships and experiences with each other?

